

# Bernal Journal

October Issue Vol. 15 No. 5

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EARTHQUAKE! Fire and quake devastated San Francisco in 1906. Lillian Duncan, now 87, watched it all from her Bernal Heights home. Story below.

## BERNAL WOMAN RECALLS QUAKE

by Joanne Molloy

For seventy-eight years, Lillian Duncan has watched Bernal Heights change from her Winfield Street windows. When Lillian settled here with her parents at the age of 9, the Hill had no graded streets, a dozen or so homes, and was so covered with goats it was called Nanny Goat Hill. But 48 fateful seconds during the night of April 18, 1906 changed that pastoral setting for good. Lillian remembers the Great Earthquake well.

"I woke up. I was so scared. For heaven's sake, when the earth gets a' rattlin' like that, you just don't miss it. You think, 'I'm gone.'."

(Lillian growls in imitation.) "It scares you to death! The earth, she rumbles and shakes everything. You know, I'm scared of thunder. But when the ground starts shakin' right under you, there's nothing like it."

The Duncan family home survived the Quake with a toppled chimney and cracked roof. Others weren't as fortunate. 500 people died and 200,000 were suddenly homeless as flames devoured the City, from downtown to Hayes Valley, from North Beach to the Bayshore District. Lillian recalls, "The whole City was afire. It was terrible. It burnt out to 22nd and Mission and scorched the paint right off our house here! At that time, Army Street was a creek. If the fire had a' jumped it, oh, this house wouldn't a' been here."

Volunteer firefighters (including the famous Mrs. L. Hitchcock Coit) dynamited entire blocks to form a buffer zone around the fire. Millionaires despaired as their Van Ness Ave mansions were so sacrificed. People with nowhere to go fled from the fire to the parks and outlands.

"The Hill was full of people without homes." Lillian told us, "They were comin' down Mission Street with all they could carry. Someone even had a bird cage with no bird! And it was rainin', oh, it was rainin'. They used their blankets for shelter. Everybody was so confused at first, they didn't know what to do."

Reverberations of the Quake were felt across the Nation as thousands of San Franciscans fled back East. Children were separated from parents, lovers from one another, some forever. In New York, while Mark Twain implored his Carnegie Hall audience to pass the

top hat for the refugees, Mrs. W.K. Vanderbilt mourned the loss of her uninsured property -- 400 Mission District houses. President Theodore Roosevelt declared martial law over San Francisco, and sent in the militia. Lillian recalls the militiamen with mixed feelings.

(continued on back page, col. 1)

## NEW MINI-PARK

by Phoebe McAfee

The Esmeralda Mini-Park is becoming a reality. There is still much to do, but what was a fennel-covered slope on the Esmeralda steps between Winfield and Prospect streets is now definitely something else! Ask any kid in the neighborhood.

The mini-park, funded by federal money under the Neighborhood Initiated Improvement Program, is being constructed with the help of many of our tire-

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## BERNAL JOURNAL



The Bernal Journal is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues and events. Articles with by-lines express the views of the individual writers.

The next meeting of the Bernal Journal is Wednesday November 15 at 8 pm at 62 Winfield Street. Anybody with an idea or an interest is invited.

**EDITORS:** Steve Chapple and Ann Kyle  
**STAFF REPORTER:** Joanne Molloy  
**TREASURER:** Jerry Schwartz  
**ADVERTISING:** Rex Coulter, Lill Kruse, Greg Catoni  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Bob Dutra, Steve Seligman, Buck Bagot, Mike Nolan, Phil Johnson, Greg Catoni, John Carroll

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## LETTERS

Dear Sirs and Ladies,

Please take notice of this complaint--which I can back up with 50 signatures given a week--and arrange for some deeds of safety. Here at the intersection (3-way) of Peralta-Esmeralda-Franconia where the speeds lately have increased up to 50 mph. Enclosed sketch illustrates the undesirable traffic flow. I suggest 3 stop signs because bumps would shake my 27-year-old cars to pieces. Although only a few dozen cars use this location daily, 25-35% of them slide around the intersections way in excess of 25 mph.

With some children in this neighborhood now we may have a repeat of several years ago with three separate kids being hit in two years--not to mention dogs. Even when being walked a body cannot possible get out of the way of speeding punks.

An old stop sign was torn down several years ago by one of them. Street bumps have pulverized over 15 years ago.

We will be deeply grateful to You for what You can do.

John Krakowsky  
568 Peralta Ave.

## ELsie ST. FOUNDATION FORMED

by Buck Bagot

In recent months the Northwest Bernal Block Club/Elsie St. Group (NWBBC) has undertaken the incorporation of a non-profit, tax-exempt community development corporation, named the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. Although months of work have gone into the incorporation effort, final word from the state and federal government on the application will take at least four more months.

The BCHF formed for the purpose of preserving and improving the Hill, particularly in the area of housing programs for low and moderate income Bernal residents. At present the corporation is the vehicle of the NWBBC. In the future the block club plans to broaden the BHCF to include other interested residents and organizations.

A grant of \$4000 from the Vanguard Foundation in San Francisco providing staff salary for Buck Bagot came through the BHCF. The BCHF is now being used by a group of Bernal organizations to win a grant from the federal agency ACTION to employ ten VISTA volunteers and by the NWBBC to apply for funds from the SF Office of Community Development

Block Grant program to fund portions of the Elsie St. Plan.

The NWBBC, the Mullen-Holladay Group, St. Kevin's Church, the Bernal Heights Community Boards Program, and the Bernal Heights Recycling Center applied as a group through the BHCF for VISTA volunteers. The groups have received an award of ten positions, beginning in November or December.

The NWBBC applied in the spring to the Office of Community Development for \$1.4 million to implement major portions of the Elsie Street Plan, including funds for 1) street improvement for the 100 block of Elsie Street, (2) the acquisition of lots for the development of housing for low and moderate income people, (3) low interest housing loans.

As so often happens, only part of the request was recommended for funding. The final proposal from OCD contained a recommendation of \$150,000 for site acquisition, and \$16,000 in staff funding. It's a lot less than we needed, but we're glad for the recommendation. The Board of Supervisors now has the final say on this last recommendation.



## NEW EDITORS FOR JOURNAL

The Bernal Journal has a pair of brandnew editors. Steve Chapple and Ann Kyle have replaced Phil Johnson and Greg Catoni who edited the paper for the past two years.

"Greg and Phil did a great job," said Chapple. "They expanded the paper's size and coverage and ran it in the black, all the time keeping it an open forum for the diverse community views of the Hill's residents. We plan to do the same. If you have anything interesting you want said, now's the time to say it, and if you live in Bernal Heights, the Journal's the place to put it. Start a controversy, sound off, talk about your job or home, or just report a meeting. We like everything. Stay American and keep it clean, that's all."

Ann Kyle is a poet and a mother of three. She lives on Bocana Street. Steve Chapple is a political novelist and also the author of Rock 'n' Roll Is Here to Pay. He is a contributor to New West, Mother Jones, and the Christian Science Monitor, and lives on Winfield Street surrounded by his indulgent roommates and his dogs (Arctic) Ed and Pope John XXIII.

# JOYS OF THE GIANTS

By Michael Kazin

This year, the Giants astonished their fans, the baseball "experts," and themselves. With one of the lowest batting averages in the league, the team held down first place for three months and made one-run victories into a habit.

Was Mr. Big on their side? Did he detect the Giants sining in September and turn His wrath into a seven-game losing streak? Whatever His intentions, without the strong arms of Knepper, Vida Blue, Halicki, and Montefusco, the bornagains would have been praying for frequent rain.

Beyond pitching, the Giants had heart. The best (and last) display of their spirit came on the Sunday before Labor Day at Candlestick Park. The Phillies--who last year swept through their division as if it were a Triple A league--were in town for a doubleheader. The Giants had to win both contests or risk falling four games behind the first-place Dodgers.

The first game that Sunday was a classic of pinpoint pitching and just enough hitting. In the seventh inning the pennant-hungry scoreboard operator gave the big crowd a rush. He flashed the news that the Mets had beaten the Dodgers. Pitcher Montefusco discovered the cause of the uproar and stretched his pitching arm high in a fist.

Any baseball fan, hip to the mysteries of "changing momentum," could have predicted the rest. In the bottom of the ninth, with two out and two on, pinch-hitter Heity Cruz reached out his bat to pop a screwball over second base for the win.

A day later, before a hostile crowd in Los Angeles, the Giants blew a four-run lead and were never again mistaken for a contender.

But if you mourn September's suicide, give a thought to what it was like to follow the Giants in

## HEAD START

by Richard Schauffler

Mission Head Start is seeking children for its pre-school program for the current school year. The program is free to low-income families with children ages 3 to 5 years. A choice of morning or afternoon half day sessions at one of four sites in the Mission is being offered. A new site has just opened at 513 Cortland, across from the public library.

Parents of handicapped children are especially encouraged to apply. The Head Start teaching staff has received special instruction in the educational needs of developmentally disabled children.

Applications are currently being accepted for the current school year. Further information is available from Mission Head Start, 362 Capp, 285-4050 or from Cortland Center, 648-1277.

the summers of recent past. During most lazy midweek games the two thousand regular spectators developed a sense of the absurd: cheering exclusively at high popups and vigorous strikeouts by Giant hitters.

In 1976 George Moscone's persistence and the money of Bob Lurie and a cattleman named Herseth "saved" the team from banishment to Toronto. In mocking gratitude, the Giants started the year with a 12-game losing streak. Montefusco drew a crowd by boasting he would shut out the Reds then lost, 6-1.

In 1977, McCovey's comeback gratified all but the confirmed cynics. But the rest of the team forgot how to hit in the late innings. Reliever Gary Lavelle needed the control of a tightrope walker to clean up the base-runners left for him by erratic starters.

So 1978 was a great year to be a baseball fan, despite the Giants' dismal finish. People brought life to the big park with Latin family picnics, smoke passing in the stands, and in-between inning making-out by teenagers. Nobody got surprised when the Giants pulled out a victory in their last at-bat. The measured joys of well-played baseball returned to the Bay Area.

# POWhattan ...

by R.J. Dutra

Building controversies are erupting on Ripley, Powhattan, Manchester and Bradford Streets as Bernal Heights residents demand some say in the development of their neighborhoods.

Controversies center around poor street conditions, parking, fire safety, building bulk and design, and the high estimated selling price of new homes.

A residential fire on Manchester sparked local concern over additional building on the deadend street.

There are similar concerns for narrow and poorly paved sections of Bradford and Powhattan Streets where new construction is also scheduled. Aesthetic impact is a concern on Ripley street.

The size of the new buildings generally two floors over a double garage, raises questions about adequate onstreet parking, in-law units, and large bulk buildings out of character with existing structures, and blocking the views of surrounding neighbors.

For more information on the Powhattan development, call 282-2886 (evenings); on the Ripley development, call 285-7443.



## CAFÉ COMMONS

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## Bernal Heights Natural History

by Barbara M. Pitschel

Much of our hill still has the appearance of a wasteland as the result of the San Francisco Fire Dept.'s "controlled burning" last June. Many summer-blooming species -- such as Soap Plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*); Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia* or *Godetia amoena*); Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*), a specimen of which I described in the last *Bernal Journal*; Wild Onion (*Allium dichlamydeum*); Grass Nut (*Brodiaea laxa*); and Coyote Mint (*Monardella villosa*) -- either did not flower at all this year, or were limited to a few individual plants.

The aesthetic effect is devastating; the ecological effects remain to be seen. In the last *Journal* I expressed my dissatisfaction with the high-handed manner in which the burning was done. Now I'll play devil's advocate and try to look at the possible (but as yet untested) positive aspects. It is possible that the effect on next year's wildflower growth could be beneficial.

Most of our native plants -- those flowers and grasses that are naturally adapted to life on a hill such as ours -- are perennials. Although the above-ground structures die back at the end of each growing season, the plant does

not die. The underground roots and stems permit the emergence of new shoots the following year.

At the same time, our hill is also host to many plants which I call weeds. In this context, weeds, which include Wild Radish (*Raphanus sativa*), Gennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Wild Oats (*Avena fatua*), and many others, have two characteristics in common: 1) they have been introduced into this habitat from other parts of the world (Europe, Mediterranean area, Australia, eastern or central U.S., etc.) and 2) they tend not to coexist with the plants already living there, but try to take over the entire area for themselves. (Their effect on the original landscape is similar to that of land developers!) Many of the weeds are annuals, which means that they grow for one season, flower, produce seeds, and die.

The situation, therefore, seems to be this: the perennials that didn't have a chance to flower will, nevertheless, send up new shoots next year. The annuals that didn't flower, and therefore produced no seeds, will die. The fate of the annuals and perennials which were allowed to flower and go to seed prior to burning is subject to more variables. The perennials should continue to live (except in places where the fire was hot enough to destroy the underground structures as well). The germination of the seeds of some species, e.g. Star Lily (*Zygadenus fremontii*) and other chaparral-adapted plants, is enhanced by fire. Other seeds are adversely af-

fected or destroyed by the same agent. These factors apply equally to annuals and perennials.

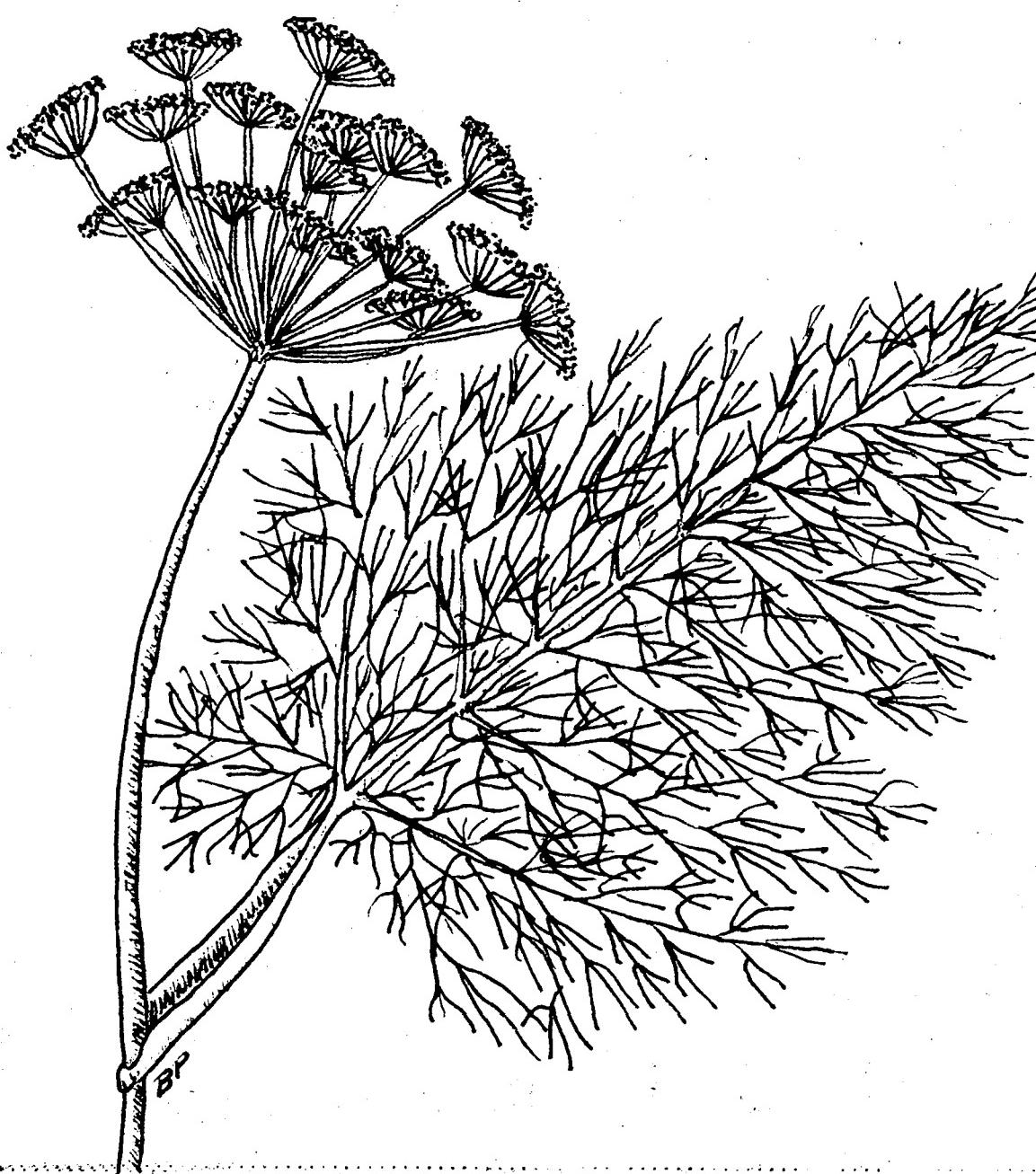
Many "weed" species are edible, and it occurs to me that we can help in their control (and save on grocery bills) by harvesting them and eating them.

One edible weed species that is prevalent on the hill (as well as in most vacant lots) is Sweet Fennel or Anise (*Foeniculum vulgare*), which was introduced from Mediterranean Europe (and is, by the way, a perennial). Like carrots, dill, caraway, and chervil, Fennel is a member of the Parsley family (UMBELLIFERAE). (This family also contains inedibles such as poison hemlock, but they are very different in appearance, and do not grow on the hill.) It is the family with the umbrella-shaped flower heads (umbels). Fennel grows to a height of 3 to 7 feet. The flowers are yellow, and the large leaves are finely dissected into hairlike segments.

As the name Anise implies, the plant has a distinct licorice taste, and all parts can be used for flavoring. The celery-like leaf stalks are especially good, and can be eaten raw (plain or in salads) or cooked.

## THANKS

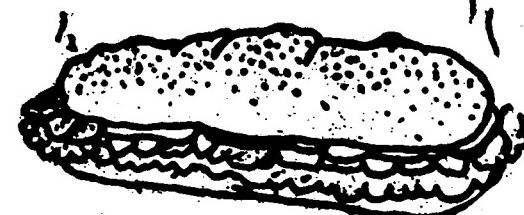
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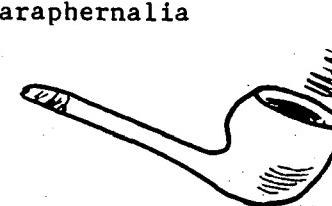


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# TURKEY TIPS

by Joanne Molloy

For one who thought turkeys were born sliced, an hour with Pioneer Market's Bob Basso was an enlightening experience. Bob runs the fresh fish and poultry half of this unique 112-year-old market while his brother Don runs the steak and corned beef half. We knew we could get tips about choosing, preparing, and cooking our Thanksgiving Day turkey from Bob:

#### Choosing your turkey

- \* Allow 1 lb. minimum per person. Add an extra lb. if in doubt.
- \* Hen turkeys weigh 8-16 lbs. and tom turkeys weigh 16-30 lbs.
- \* Fresh turkeys are much better than frozen.
- \* Look for a broad-breasted bird. The more rounded breast gives more meat than carcass.

#### Preparing your turkey

- \* Remove giblets from neck and body cavity
- \* drain any juices
- \* stuff turkey full, not bulging. (Stuffing may be pre-prepared but shouldn't be put into turkey until ready to roast.)
- \* Close opening, secure skewers.
- \* Rub turkey with bacon grease, or substitute of butter or shortening.
- \* Salt and pepper if desired.
- \* Place aluminum foil tent over turkey in roasting pan.

#### Cooking your turkey

- \* If meat thermometer is used, punch through foil to center of breast, avoiding the bone. Roast at 350° until internal temperature reaches 185°.
- \* Cooking time varies according to weight of turkey. Consult cookbook.
- \* For the last 30 minutes of cooking, remove foil tent and increase oven temperature to 375° to brown outside of turkey.
- \* When done, remove from oven and allow to rest on platter with the foil tent back on for 30 minutes before carving.
- \* If you're going to make gravy, place giblets in water at a rolling boil and simmer for one hour. Drain, let cool, and dice.

#### Gravy

When turkey is removed from roasting pan, drain excess fat, but leave drippings. Place pan over medium burner. Very slowly, add sifted flour, stirring into a mushy rue. Add diced giblets. Slowly add water until desired consistency. If you wish, add browning ingredient such as Kitchen Bouquet.

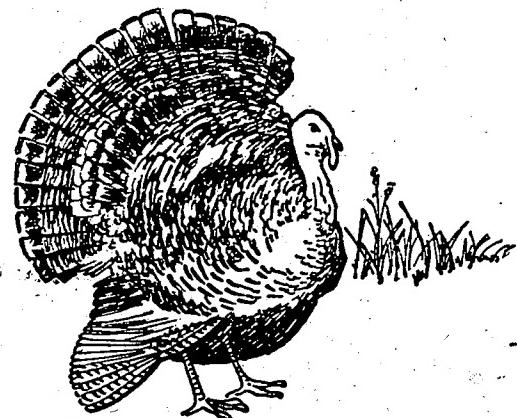
#### Original Pioneer Stuffing

(for a 15 lb. turkey)

Brown 1 lb. ground beef in olive oil  
Add 4 chopped green onions  
1 celery stalk  
small amounts of rosemary, parsley, basil; sage OR one tsp. poultry seasoning  
Remove meat from stove and cool. Add 4 c. bread cubes (or stuffing mix) and 1 lightly beaten egg. Mix thoroughly. Stuff turkey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks, Bob, for giving us the tips!



## YES on V Jobs With Peace

At the expense of  
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Prop.V Campaign Committee  
presents . . .  
a forum.  
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place:  
St. Kevin's Church  
Cortland Ave.  
date:  
October 21, 1978  
time:  
4:pm to 6:pm

NEIGHBORHOOD RECEPTION  
to SUPPORT PROP V  
(sponsored by the Committee for JOBS WITH PEACE)

When: Sat. Oct. 21st  
4:00 PM  
Where: St. Kevin's  
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# BHA NEWS

Bernal Heights Association Report  
by Rex Coulter

I am pleased to report that the recent meeting of the Bernal Heights Association was not only well-attended but appeared to have been a general all-around success as well. San Francisco's Mayor George Moscone and 9th District Supervisor Lee Dolson were the speakers. Both fielded questions from the audience and gave generously of their time, sharing ideas and responding to various community concerns.



For our October 23rd meeting we are planning on having some of the candidates for School Board speak on educational concerns of San Franciscans as well as some of those running for Charter Commissioners in the November 7th election. It promises to be another interesting meeting and well worth your time. So, plan to attend and mark your calendar now. It will be held on October 23, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., with light refreshments and brief socializing to follow. All are welcome so please come and support your neighborhood association. The meeting will be held at the Precita Center, 534 Precita Ave.. For more information please call Rex at 648-5783.



We also need a new secretary. Carrie Ewing, who has been serving so capably as our secretary, has moved out of the neighborhood and has had to give up her job. We're sorry to see her go but are terribly appreciative of all the help she has given us. Thanks, Carrie. If you would be interested in volunteering to help us out in this capacity, we certainly would welcome your response.



If you have not paid your membership dues for this year, we would also welcome your contribution to this worthy cause. Membership is only \$2.00 per year and includes one full year's subscription to the Bernal Journal mailed directly to your address every issue. So don't miss this opportunity to be a supportive member of the Bernal Heights Association and avail yourself of these fringe benefits as well. Please use the accompanying coupon and send your check to the Bernal Heights Association, 77 Peralta Ave., San Francisco 94110, in care of Jerry Schwartz, Treasurer.

See you at the meeting October 23rd!



--PATIENTLY AWAITING A PIECE OF CHICKEN HOT OFF THE GRILL--

The pictures are from a Mullen-Holladay Neighborhood Barbecue, held August 30th at the Community Garden located near the intersection of Costa and Brewster Sts.

-Photos Courtesy of Sabrina Saunders-

## NOISE FOR NEWS

by Jerry Schwartz

A special thanks to Officer Bodisco of the Noise Abatement Dept. of the S.F. Police for helping to resolve the Sunday noise problem at Rolph Park (Army & Potrero). Ball players had been disturbing park neighbors with play-by-plays over the public address speakers.

Officer Bodisco would like to advise any residents that if they have problems with noise, they should call him at 553-1012 from 6 a.m.-8:30 a.m. or 553-1336 afterward to leave a message.

## BHA Members

### YES I WANT TO JOIN THE B.H.A.

I pledge to try to better my neighborhood in any way I can. Here is my  \$2  \$\_\_\_\_\_ or  Work/Barter Pledge in place of money.

NAME Send to:

Jerry Schwartz  
77 Peralta Ave  
SF, CA 94110

ADDRESS

PHONE

SPECIAL INTEREST?

## Mullen-Holladay Summit Conference

Mullen-Holladay Group members held a summit conference with City officials on October 3 to discuss problems surrounding development on substandard sections of Mullen Ave.

City Hall was the scene for this informative, but inconclusive, meeting. The City's fire, water, public works and planning departments were represented. The meeting was arranged by Mike Semler from the Mayor's office.

Adama Saunders, Buck Bagot, Bob Dutra and attorney Brian McCaffrey represented the neighborhood group.

City officials and neighbors agreed Mullen Ave. should be brought up to City standards to guarantee emergency vehicular access, and to support the construction of new homes.

The catch is that five new homes were to have been built on Mullen this year, while street improvements are at best a year away.

The neighborhood group wants building postponed until the street is paved and fire safety guaranteed.

## ALASKAN TRAVELS



By Steve Chapple

Jacques Chase, 12-year-old son of Earl and Linda Chase of 63 Winfield, an eighth grader at Luther Burbank school, spent this summer in Alaska on Ketchikan Island. He was the son of Sean Eldridge, son of Nola Armijo, another longtime resident of the hill.

Jacques agreed to tell all in a short interview with the Journal.

Did you see any Grizzly Bears?

Yeah.

What did you do?

Stood still.

What happened each day?

We fished a lot. We fished for our dinners when the family was down and out and didn't have money for the day. The fish would bite real easily. We caught 15-20 pound salmon. It was complicated at first. You had to learn to cast and reel in. Then it was easy. How was Alaska different from Bernal Heights?

## NEW PARK PLANS

by Phil Johnson

The Park that is to go on the vacant land at Army and Potrero is nearing completion of the planning process and construction is due to start in six months.

Two additional community meetings are planned for residents to discuss their views of the plan. They have not yet been scheduled.

The architectural firm of Esherick Homesey Dodge and Davis has the contract for park planning.

The firm has developed a preliminary plan for the park which is on display at their office for public view. The plan is the result of a series of community meetings to find what the community wanted from the park.

The City claims they cannot suspend the already approved permits or attach street improvement conditions to them.

Richard Alvarez, the developer of Mullen Ave., claims his construction will cause no problems on a dirt road lacking in complete public utilities. He is only responsible for improving the street fronting his property.

Neighbors have threatened to block construction. This ten month old controversy has polarized the positions of the neighborhood and the developer. The Mayor's office has stepped in to try to work out an agreement.

As it stands now, the park would be entirely surrounded by trees and bisected by a knoll rising 40 feet in the air. On one side of the hill would be an all purpose play area for soccer, football, and the like. The other side of the hill would be a gradually sloping meadow.

Included in the plan are a basketball area complete with stands, a performance amphitheatre, a picnic grove by a pond and a large crafts pavilion.

Anyone wishing to see the preliminary plan can do so at the architect's office on 25th St. Anyone interested in the remaining community planning meetings should call the firm's liaison people, Russel Ellis (524-1836) or Kathleen Carrick (752-2600).

## District Nine Candidates Night

The District Nine Community Council will hold a propositions and candidates night Thursday, October 26, 8-10 pm, at St. Kevin's Hall at the corner of Cortland and Anderson.

All District Nine residents are invited to attend this meeting hosted by the Mullen-Holladay Group. Candidates are being invited to introduce themselves and distribute their campaign literature.

Various city and state propositions will be debated.

The Community Council can endorse propositions but not candidates. The Council, made up of various District Nine organizations, serves as a monthly forum for the discussion of common issues and problems.



There's a lot more country. We were out in the woods, near the water. We lived in an apartment house with three stories like those in the Mission, though.

Are Alaskans any different from San Franciscans?

A little bit. They're more country-like. Most people in San Francisco would like to get out in the country. There people wanted to get back in the city. I'd been in the country before but this was different. It was always drizzling or raining, sunlight from 8 am to 12 midnight. What do you remember the most?

The time we went down a waterfall and almost got killed, floating in innertubes. The water was freezing. You couldn't swim a quarter mile in the river without freezing. The waterfall came up too fast for us to get out.

Do a lot people float freezing rivers in Alaska or was it a crazy thing to do?

It was pretty crazy. Older drunk people do it, I guess.

# ELECTION 1978

## PROP. U & YOU

by Mike Harney

In what promises to be the most hotly contested local proposition fight this year, proponents and opponents of Prop U, the Rent Rebate measure, have begun to trade charges.

The result of the Prop U battle will be of great financial interest to renters, homeowners, and small merchants on Bernal Heights. If Prop U passes November 7, San Franciscan renters will save \$50 million.

Placed on the ballot with 25000 signatures, Prop U will require landlords to pass along 100% of the tax savings they receive from Prop 13. Supporters of Rent Rebate argue that this is only fair since tenants have always paid 100% of the property tax as a part of their rent.

Passage of the proposition would mean a rollback of rents to June 6, 1978 as well.

A typical Bernal renter who paid \$250 for an apartment June 6 only to have rent raised June 7 to \$300 would get the rent reduced to \$250. If the share of the property tax savings was \$25, rent would be further reduced to \$225.

Harvey Rose, San Francisco City Budget Analyst, recently stated that apartment house owners

will receive a 59% tax decrease, or an average of \$585 per building from passage of Prop 13.

Controller John Farrell has declared that Prop U will cost taxpayers nothing.

Opponents of Prop U, according to supporters of Renter's Rebate, point to the difficulties of Rent Control in New York, never to the San Francisco case. Rent control is altogether different, establishing an administrative body to fix rents and deal with disputes.

Prop U, however, sets up no bureaucracy and would be self-enforcing. To prevent landlords from raising rents to compensate for the tax savings, there is a rent stabilization provision. Landlords would be allowed to pass on the increased costs of operation.

Landlords would retain the property tax benefits of units they occupy. The SF Rent Rebate Committee states that landlords are about 4% of the city's population, tenants 70%, and the remainder homeowners.

Call Dave McNally at 821-0431, or Buck Bagot at 826-3959, if you wish to work for Prop U on Bernal Heights.--MH



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Jan Vurek  
Kay Pachtner  
Calvin Welch

SF Gay Democratic Club  
Black Women Organized for Action  
Chinese American Democratic Club  
Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club  
Graphic Arts International Union Local 3B

## HOW TO VOTE

by Maurine Lamb

Vote November 7 in your precinct. Show your voter's notification card.

Vote "absentee" if you are unable to go to the polls because of physical disability or are out of town. Apply now for an absentee ballot from the Office of Registrar of Voters, City Hall, Room 158, SF 94102 c/o Absentee Voter Section. Deadline is October 31.

Absentee voters may vote at office of Registrar of Voters, Monday-Friday, 8 am-5 pm until October 31. A new application is required for each election.

•••

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bernal residents are welcome at a Charter Commission election party for candidates Gene Coleman and Lee Jed at John Mollenkopf's house, 75 Winfield, between 6 & 9 pm, Friday, October 20. \$3-\$5 at the door.

**It's time to talk about  
how city hall runs,  
not who runs it.**

**Vote for open and modern government**

**Pat Schultz  
Charter Commission  
on November 7**

Endorsements (partial listing)  
Democratic County Central Committee; Chinese American Democratic Club; Black Leadership Forum; Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club; Citizens for Justice; I.L.W.U.; Firefighters Union Local 788; San Francisco Building Trades Council; San Francisco Labor Council; National Women's Political Caucus; Golden Gate Business and Professional Women's Club; San Francisco Gay Democratic Club; Assemblymen Willie Brown & Art Agnos; District Attorney Joe Freitas; Supervisors Harvey Milk, Carol Ruth Silver, Gordon Lau & John Molinari, Mary Burns, Dan Weinstein, Jess Esteva, Nancy Pelosi, Sam Walker, Lillian Sing, Dick Sklar, Yori Veda, Kay Pachtner, Zuretti Goosby, Claire C. Pilcher, Rudy Nothenberg, Nikki King, Howard Nemecouski, John Jacobs, Carolyn Reilly, Madelaine Haas Russell, John Kirkwood, Jan Holloway.

**Pat Schultz for Charter Commission**  
Michael P. Burkart, Treasurer, 3342 Sacramento St., SF

**Pat Schultz  
for Charter Commission**

**YES ON X FOR A NEW CHARTER**

SPEAKING OUT!

## "Prop 6 Exposed"

by Jerry Schwartz and Rex Israel

There is a lot of controversy over Proposition 6 which, if passed in our November election, will ban gay teachers from the State's public schools (which, by the way, are supported by all property tax-payers--gay and straight, parents and non-parents). It would also ban teachers who are not gay but who do not condemn the gay life style of their friends and relatives.

No one knows what causes homosexuality. We only know that it exists and has done so for thousands of years. Maybe it's God's way of regulating over-population to some degree. Who knows? It's part of life.

Supporters of Prop 6 are fond of quoting from the Bible. Yet in the new Testament, Christ Jesus gives the following three reasons why men do not marry: "Some, because they were born that way; others, because men made them that way; and others do not marry for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven." And he concludes his explanation with this statement: "Let him who can accept this teaching do so." (Good News Bible, Matthew 19:12.)

How would you like it if someone tried to tell you how you should conduct yourself in your private sex life? How would you like it if someone threatened

sanctions against you and your means of livelihood should you fail to measure up to his or her own particular brand of morality?

We think this attempt on the part of John Briggs to gain political notoriety by such Hitlerian tactics is deplorable, unconscionable, loathsome and abominable.

We urge you to think through the consequences of the passage of such a law. Your own enlightened self-interest should awaken you to the inherent evils of such diabolical

legislation.

It is our opinion that anybody who votes yes on Prop 6 is a bully. That's right. It's no different than young punks beating up on an effeminate boy, as they do all the time, because their parents say it's ok.

How about putting some love in our hearts which will ultimately do more good than being filled with hatred and bitterness. Try it and teach your children to do the same!

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Democratic Central Committee  
Black Women Organized for Action  
Local 400  
San Francisco Democratic Club  
Federated Young Democrats  
California Democratic Clubs  
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Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club  
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on 6

# ST. KEVIN'S A GOOD NEIGHBOR

by Ann Kyle

In the early spring of '65 I walked up the steps of a neighborhood Catholic Church in New York City to find out the Easter Sunday mass schedule but more importantly to satisfy my acute need for a familiar and peaceful place.

For I was 19, a stranger to the city, without family or friends.

I was surprised to discover that you needed to pay a pew fee to get a seat, apparently it was an SRO event. I was given two envelopes, one for the fee, the other for the collection basket.

I left and did not return--in the six years I lived in NYC I went only a few times to St. Patricks Cathedral, as one might go to a museum or City Hall to see the art and architecture or mark officially births and marriages.

This was not a conscious decision to "leave the church," rather I felt the church had left me. I was lonesome and lost, unable to meet her strict demands and disciplines. Later, along with others, I did develop a personal and political understanding of this feeling and joined the loud chorus of fallen-away Catholics criticizing the Church and crying out for new social forms to serve humanity.

In 1976 my family moved to Bernal Heights. We had not been in our house on Bocana Street more than two weeks when I was called for my first community meeting, which I discovered was to be held at a Catholic Church on Cortland Street. . . St. Kevin's.

St. Kevin's Church, I soon realized, was the official unofficial Community Center of Bernal Heights--from the top of the Hill to Alemany--from Old Bay Shore to Mission.

The great number of community groups that use its two parish halls, the constant services and programs it sponsors and supports--social, educational and political as well as religious--has put the church in touch with most of the incredibly diverse population of "The Hill."

The Catholic community alone, those attending Sunday masses and participating in the occasional sacraments of Baptism, confirmation, and matrimony number around 1500 families predominately Filipino and Latino--with significant Asian and Samoan representation--as well as a number of Irish, German, and Italian families



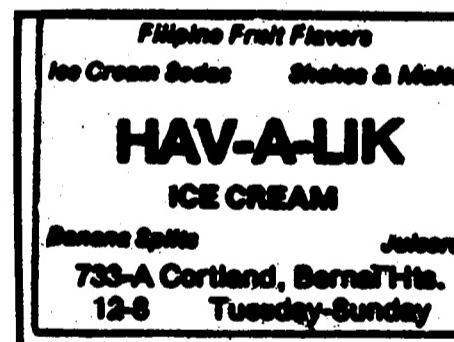
Now it struck me that St. Kevin's was a church I could not avoid if I wished to be active in my neighborhood. This was quite a change from the old days, and I became curious to know more. The church has changed a lot over the last 10 years--inhouse as well as in the community.

For instance lay people of the parish, including women, play an active part in the mass, reading gospel and giving communion. There is less emphasis on sin, and a greater acceptance of the struggles in life. Confession is now called Act of Reconciliation. My eleven year old daughter and I occasionally need a little reconciling and go to Cortland Corners for tea--a process not much different from talking to the Fathers.

Organizationally, lay parishioners have been added to the church staff alongside the clergy, increasing the relationship with the community.

Father Regal often talks about being true brothers and sisters, and the more we see each other in this way, the less we will tolerate the barriers to our human unity, such as racism or economic injustice.

So along with block clubs and other community organizations, St. Kevin's is a valuable neighborhood force.\*\*\*\*\*



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## MINI-PARK (continued from p.1)

less neighbors, under the direction of equally tireless playground architect Andy Butler. Andy has arrived first and departed last on many of our construction days. Suzanne Smith of City Planning has been our able co-ordinator, making sure all supplies arrive as needed (a difficult task).

On Saturday August 5, about 20 of us worked with shovels, hoes, and rakes, clearing the entire slope of fennel, various other weeds, and litter. Michael Nolan provided a flatbed truck, and a mountain of vegetation went to the dump.

The following Saturday even more neighbors took up picks, shovels, rakes, buckets and wheelbarrows, and the middle part of the slope (ever so slowly) became a flat area. By the third weekend the lumber had arrived. Post holes were dug. The wind was fierce. More curious neighbors came to look and stayed to help. Cold juices, sodas and beer were brought by helpful others for the ever-thirsty crew. (Thank you All.) Kids were told what was in progress and chipped in.

Then, 93 bags of cement arrived. On Labor Day weekend we finished the retaining walls and benches around the play areas. We all celebrated on Labor Day with a terrific picnic on Winfield Landing. (Lydia Rentillo's lumpia were fantastic!) The sunburned workers compared sore muscles and blisters, but we were all pretty proud of our efforts.

During September the play structure and the slides arrived, looking like so many giant Lincoln logs. New faces joined the crew. In two weekends the play structure was completed. What a job! Somehow it all fit together. Somehow, with brute force, we managed to hold it up until it was bolted into place. Somehow, what seemed like tons of concrete was poured into the post holes. Somehow, it looked much bigger than we had imagined. It was difficult to keep the kids off until the concrete set. It

was difficult to contain our tempers. Then, it was difficult to contain our amazement that we had really done it. Whew!

Next we tackled the slide, a double-width forty-footer, running from the Winfield landing to the play area. So far, one slide is up waiting for its twin. I slide to work every morning.

The Mini-Park Committee of the Northwest Bernal Block Club, who are responsible for all this, as well as being some of the most enduring members of the crew, includes Linda Canaga, Jon Toven, Michael Nolan, Harold Retler, and Phoebe McAfee. Bob and Margaret Randolph have kept us fed and free from thirst. Richard Van Kooy has received and stored the mountain of supplies, tools, and equipment in his garage. Buck Bagot, Maurice Kelly, and the entire Hamer family have put in many of the hardest hours. There are many others who have worked long and hard, in the wind and during the heat wave. You know who you are and we thank you.

We still have more to do: the second slide, the table and planters for the Winfield landing, lots of landscaping, and future maintenance. If you want to be part of this project and get to know your neighbors while having a great time, call the Northwest Bernal Block Club at 826-3959 or Michael Nolan at 824-2398. Or, you can just show up on most Saturday mornings. We will keep you posted on further developments with the bulletin board at Winfield Landing. Viva Esmeralda Park! (See picture, p. 9.)

## CLASSIFIEDS

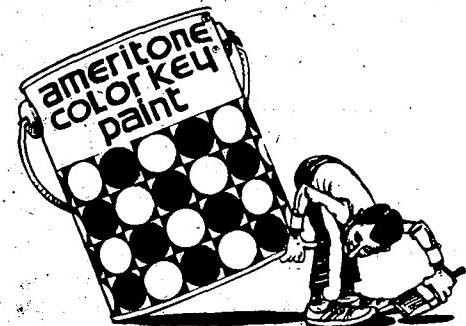
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Photo by Alan Nomura



The San Francisco Mime Troupe will present a brief revival of its full-length historical satire, False Promises/Nos Engañaron, October 20-22, 8:30 p.m. at Potrero Middle School Auditorium, 655 De Haro at 18th St.. Tickets can be bought at Modern Times Bookstore. For information call 285-1717.

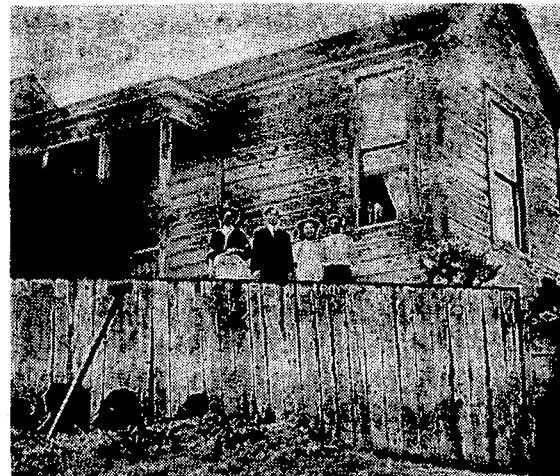
## EARTHQUAKE (cont' from p.1)

"Well, the militia come in and they did the best they could I guess. Now, if you had a light goin' at night -- course we didn't have no electric, only candles -- they'd yell, 'Lights out!' and everybody'd jump to put it out. There was an old woman up on Elsie, she was hard of hearing, and one night when she didn't hear their warning they went in and shot her dead as a doornail!"

Maverick militiamen weren't the only problems in the wake of the Quake's destruction. Speculative landlords doubled and tripled rents of houses that still stood and some shopkeepers jacked up prices. The entire population of Chinatown was forcibly moved to the Presidio Golf Links until it was decided by the City fathers where they would be "allowed" to rebuild their community.

But most San Franciscans helped one another out. Lillian's parents took in her father's co-workers and their families.

"We had a house full," Lillian said. "We had one family in here that had 5 or 6 kids. Those kids tore the whole place apart. Everybody slept on the floor. We all cooked in the street, since fires weren't allowed



Lillian Duncan (2nd from right) stands with her parents and husband in 1909 in front of their Winfield St. (then Chulpultec St.) home. Note dirt road.

in the house. You just don't know how bad it was. But we did the best we could with what we had."

Citywide, the Relief Committee raised funds for its plans to permanently change the lives of the remaining refugees. The plan "aimed to make homeowners, not renters, out of working people," quote the newspapers of the day. By the summer of 1907 10,000 unemployed craftsmen were building 7500 two- and three-bedroom cottages in the park camps. Over the

next year the homes were given free to each family as soon as they had bought or rented a lot. One by one the cottages were hauled by mule to all areas of the City. Many of them are now homes of Bernal Heights residents, changed and added onto over the decades.

In the spirit of cooperation, San Franciscans rebuilt their city in the ruins of the Great Earthquake. As Lillian would say, "They did the best they could."

Readers will be happy to know that Bernal Heights is one of the most earthquake-safe parts of the city to live in. The San Francisco Relief Survey Map shows this and other steep hills such as Telegraph Hill to be safer than the lowlands, and much safer than downtown, which is built on landfill. Bernal Hill's firm composition of Franciscan rocks, chert and sandstone, and bodies of basaltic rock are what we're sitting on. So next time you're huffing and puffing up your steep street, remember this tidbit.

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### RECYCLING UPDATE

Progress is being made on the Bernal Recycling Center. A Land Use Permit for use of a corner of the Farmer's Market parking lot on Alemany Blvd. is presently being drawn up with the City, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. The Recycling Center plans to be open two Saturdays per month and will take glass, tin, aluminum, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, computer cards and printouts, and California wine bottles.

For more information call 648-6646. Keep watching the Bernal Journal for news of the Center's opening. In the meantime, call 387-3044 for where to recycle now.

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